

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

May 11, 2010

Just over two years ago, the County of Los Angeles entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Los Angeles (City) to cooperatively develop the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a proposed development project that is now being called the NBC Universal Evolution Plan (it was formerly called the NBC Universal Vision Plan) on the Universal Studios property. The major components of the project application include a request that the City of Los Angeles annex roughly 76 acres of the property in order to build a new residential development, and in the unincorporated area of the County, a request to approve a new hotel and a specific plan to govern the operations of the existing studio, theme park, and “City Walk” district. This joint environmental review process is still underway, and County staff has reported that the cooperative efforts between the County (technically acting as the Responsible Agency under CEQA) and the City (technically acting as the Lead Agency under CEQA) have generally gone well. However, as the two departments move closer to releasing the draft EIR for public review and comment, it may be necessary to slightly modify the MOU to specify how the public’s comments will be jointly received during the public comment period on the draft EIR, and how or whether future joint decision-making hearings will be conducted by the respective public agencies.

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

It is vital that any such changes maintain the intent of the MOU: namely, a staff process that rigorously reviews the information in the draft EIR, proposes stringent mitigation measures to address any potential environmental impacts, and provides robust opportunities for the submission of public comments at an open forum, such as a public workshop, regarding the adequacy of the draft environmental document. The Director of Regional Planning is in the best position to act on behalf of the County to design such a process.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors delegate the authority to the Director of Regional Planning to negotiate, and, following approval as to form by County Counsel, execute any amendment(s) that he or she believes should be made to the previously approved NBC/Universal Vision Plan MOU as long as those amendments apply only to the following specifically enumerated subject areas:

- 1) The assignment of county staff (including Hearing Officers) to evaluate the project or conduct any public hearings, public workshops, etc. that may be held in order to receive public comment on either the environmental document or the project itself;
- 2) The need for, or process of, scheduling hearings, public workshops, or other public forums that are held in order to receive public comments and/or share information about the draft EIR or the project itself, or make decisions and/or recommendations regarding the final EIR and / or the requested entitlements; and,
- 3) Any non-substantive or technical changes that are needed to effectuate the subject matter changes discussed above.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Regional Planning to submit a copy of the amendments to this Board within seven days after the execution of any such amendment.